

ES
Sept 3
VI-482

BULGARIA

INDUSTRY (1700)
Mining (1706)

SOVIET SPECIALISTS SEARCH URANIUM IN BULGARIA.

SOURCE ROME: A 33-year-old Bulgarian.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Up to July 1955.

EVALUATION COMMENT: The reported information about the BUHOVO uranium mine and the uranium deposits near IHTIMAN is known in this office, but not the discovery of uranium layers near MUSALA and BURGAS.

The described antenna along the road to PIRDOP is known here as a jamming station.

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Russian and Bulgarian specialists are carrying out a thorough search for uranium in Bulgaria. Every acre of ground is being closely tested in the hopes of discovering layers of uranium or other valuable materials. By this means a large uranium deposit was recently discovered in the Demir-Kapija district near to the summit of Musala and the Beli Iskar dam, in the SAMAKOV Province. The buildings and huts for technical equipment and workers' housing have already been constructed at a suitable point. There are 150 "Samosvalka" and "ZIZ" Russian type trucks in use on this project. It appears that the initial project was to use the waters of the Beli Iskar river for washing the ores, but as the acids required in the process would have damaged the plant and animal life along the course of the river, as happened along the Jana river near BUHOVO, this project was abandoned. In SAMOKOV they say that the mines will give work to the whole district and province.

The BUHOVO Mines.

The administrative offices of the BUHOVO mines are on Ulica Musala, SOFIA. The administrative personnel of the actual mines live in SOFIA and go out to the mine in three shifts, being picked up outside the SOFIA offices or at the Orlovija Most bridge. The Bulgarian staff travel separately from the Soviet staff. The shift starting work at 0800 hours is picked up at 0700 hours in town, which means that the men have to be at their

(Over)

pick-up point an hour before work begins.

There are two main "arteries" of uranium at BUHOVO, one near KREMIKOVZI and the other at Jablaniza, north of STARA-PLANINA, near BOTEVGRAD. There is also an enormous stratum of iron, the ore of which is reddish in color. It is calculated that this stratum is rich enough to supply Bulgaria's needs for hundreds of years.

BUHOVO today is a small modern town, having already grown larger than the neighboring NOVOSELZI. There is a large, well-equipped hospital close to the pit head, and there is a theater and other buildings to serve the recreational and cultural life of the workers. When the weather and visibility are good this modern industrial town can be seen from as far as SOFIA, for it stands high up on the Staras-Planina Plateau.

There is a new and very convenient road out in the Balcano, and a continuous stream of trucks passes along it transporting the ores to JANA station. For easier checking the trucks carry the registration number in large letters on the sides as well as the rear.

Another uranium deposit, which has been mined for about a year, lies near IHTIMAN in the district between CHUKUROVO, CHAUSA, VAKAREL AND NOVI HAN. Coal and lodestone are also mined here.

There is a uranium deposit near BURGAS, between POMORIE and STALIN, where methane gas is obtained.

Every movement along this area is strictly checked as the Black Sea coast is classified as a military zone.

Along the PIRDOP road, near BOGROV, about 20 miles from SOFIA, there has been constructed an antenna with triple lines linked together by parallel bridges and cables. Source could give no more exact information on this construction but presumed it to be some kind of defense construction or something to do with a jamming station.

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